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## FOURTH SESSION, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29.

The fourth session began at 9.30 a. m. Friday, December 29.

19. "The appositive participle in Anglo-Saxon." By Professor Morgan Callaway, Jr., of the University of Texas. This paper was discussed by Professor J. W. Bright.

20. "The Lambeth version of *Havelok*." By Mr. E. K. Putnam, of Harvard University. [Printed in *Publications*, xv, 1 f.]

This paper was discussed by Professors W. E. Mead and J. W. Bright.

21. "On Modern English Dictionaries." By Miss Julia Pauline Leavens, of Brooklyn, N. Y.

This paper was discussed by Professors H. E. Greene, J. M. Hart, H. A. Todd, O. F. Emerson, J. W. Bright, and F. H. Stoddard.

22. "Figurative elements in the terminology of English Grammar." By Professor F. N. Scott, of the University of Michigan.

The paper called attention to the singular futility of most teaching of English grammar in the primary and secondary schools, and attempted to account for it, in part, on the ground that the figurative or imaginative influence of grammatical terminology has not been sufficiently taken into account by the teacher. Children cannot think abstractly. It is impossible for them at the start to grasp the abstract meaning of highly general terms like 'case,' 'object,' 'government,' and the like. Consequently, when these terms are first presented, unless there is some counteracting influence, children attach to them all sorts of absurd and incongruous images. Investigations show that 'case,' for example, is commonly interpreted by the child as a box, or chest of drawers; it has even been connected with the covering of sausages. 'Government' suggests the relation of a king and his subject. 'Parts of speech' is often taken to mean the lips, the tongue and the palate. An 'irregular verb' is conceived of as 'naughty.' These images being often extremely vivid and persistent, give a false color to the entire subject of grammar, confuse and dishearten the beginner, and nullify the efforts of the conscientious teacher.

As a remedy for the evil the author of the paper proposed not a new terminology, but a different conception of grammar. He would establish a more intimate connection between grammar and living speech. Language should be regarded as a vital bond between man and his fellow-men. Grammar should be a study of the structure and function of this bond. It is not difficult for the teacher to connect the terminology of grammar, thus conceived, with the concrete interests of the pupils, and to guide the figurative suggestions of the terms into the proper channels.

This paper was discussed by Professors F. H. Stoddard, H. E. Greene, J. W. Bright, A. Gudeman, H. A. Todd, and Charles Harris.

23. "*Vita Meriadoci*: an Arthurian romance now first edited from the Cottonian ms. Faustina B. vi. of the British Museum." By Professor J. Douglas Bruce, of Bryn Mawr College. [Read by title.] [Printed in *Publications*, xv, 326 f.]

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[The American Dialect Society held its Annual Meeting at 12 o'clock.]

#### FIFTH SESSION, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29.

The fifth and closing session of the meeting was called to order at 2.30 p. m., Friday, December 29.

24. "The influence of Court Masques on the drama, 1605-15." By Dr. Ashley H. Thorndike, of Western Reserve University. [Printed in *Publications*, xv, 114 f.]

After accepting the report of the Nominating Committee, the following officers were elected for the year 1900 :

President : Thomas R. Price, Columbia University.

Secretary : James W. Bright, Johns Hopkins University.

Treasurer : Herbert E. Greene, Johns Hopkins University.